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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00806 181824Z

67
ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

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R 181654Z APR 74
FM USINT ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0378

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: GOA NOTE REQUESTING COOPERATION IN WEATHER STUDY

AFDROUGHT

1. GOA FOREIGN MINISTRY HANDED FOLLOWING NOTE TO USINT ON APRIL 16, 1974, WHICH SEEKS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON METEOROLOGICAL AND RAIN MAKING.

2. PERTINENT TEXT INFORMAL TRANSLATION

QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THAT THE DROUGHT WHICH IS PRESISTING IN THE SAHEL IS ALSO AFFECTING THE SOUTHERN PART OF ALGERIA, THUS RESTRAINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA AND RAISING SERIOUS PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE TAMANRASSET AREA, WHERE THE POPULATION IS HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTIES SURVIVING THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF WATER.

QUOTE INDEED THE HOGGAR MOUNTAIN AREA IS BEING AFFECTED BY A LASTING DROUGHT IN SPITE OF THE PASSING, DURING SOME SEASONS, OF DENSE CLOUDY FORMATIONS WHICH GIVE BUT JUST SLIGHT RAIN AT THE GROUND LEVEL; THIS IS WHY THE LIVE STOCK WHICH CONSTITUTES THE MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE OF THE LOCAL POPULATION HAS BEEN DECIMATED BY 80 PERCENT.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00806 181824Z

QUOTE ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN USING EVERY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

POSSIBLE EMERGENCY MEANS TO HELP THE POPULATION VICTIM
OF THE DISASTER; THE LONG DROUGHT LED THEM TO LOOK FOR
MORE EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS, THAT IS TO SAY:

1. HAVE A METEOROLOGICAL AND CLIMATOLOGICAL STUDY
DONE ON THE DROUGHT

2. WORK ON METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS BY STARTING
ARTIFICIAL RAINS FROM CERTAIN TYPES OF CLOUDS IN ORDER
TO REDUCE THE DISASTROUS EFFECTSOF THE DROUGHT.
THIS IS WHY NEXT MAY, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES
TO CALL UPON THE TECHNIQUES OF PROVOKED RAIN, WHICH HAD
GIVEN SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN SEPTEMBER 1973.

QUOTE SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE A REPETITION
TO THE NORTH OF SIMILAR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN THE
DISTRICTS SOUTH OF THE ALGERIAN SAHARA.

QUOTE THIS IS WHY ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE
HAPPY TO OBTAIN THE COOPERATION OF QUALIFIED AMERICAN
AUTHORITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLETE THIS OPERATION.

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3. DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN INDICATED THIS WAS ONLY
FIRST PHASE. WAS USG INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH
GOA ON QUESTION OF LONG RUN WEATHER TRENDS FOR
SAHEL AREA; AND, MORE IMMEDIATELY, IN COOPERATION IN
RAIN MAKING PROJECT SIMILAR TO THOSE DONE SOUTH OF
ALGERIA? THE FORMALITIES OF HOW THIS COOPERATION
MIGHT BE EFFECTED ARE TO BE DISCUSSED LATER DEPENDING
ON USG'S RESPONSE TO FIRST QUESTION. PROBLEM
OF PAYMENT OR GIFT IS THUS NOT RAISED AT THIS STAGE, BUT
GOA KNOWS AID FUNDING NOT POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: USINT SUGGESTS METEOROLOGICAL COOPERATION
WITH ALGERIA MIGHT BE WORKED INTO STUDY MIT IS DOING
ON AFRICAN DROUGHT CONDITIONS.
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EO Systematic Review
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